

INFORMATION OPEN HOUSES

Visit any time
between
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

April 27, Ellensburg
Central Washington Univ.
SUB 214, Yakama Room
400 E. University Way

April 28, Pasco
Columbia Basin College
Byron Gjerde
Multipurpose Center
2600 North 20th Avenue

April 29, Yakima
Yakima Arboretum
1401 Arboretum Dr.

For more information
visit: www.usbr.gov/pn
and click on
Yakima Storage Study

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Email list
Follow the link on the
website to join our email
list for periodic electronic
updates on significant
activities about the
Storage Study

Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study Public Information Open Houses

The Bureau of Reclamation invites you to learn about the **Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study** including the potential **Black Rock Reservoir** at one of the upcoming open houses. Reclamation staff will be on hand to explain the Storage Study and to answer questions. Displays and handouts will be available.

Study Description

The purpose of the Study is to examine the feasibility and acceptability of augmenting water storage within the Yakima River basin to benefit people, farms, and fish. The Study will focus on two options to create these benefits: diverting Columbia River water to the Yakima River Basin using the potential Black Rock Reservoir and/or creating additional storage in the Yakima River Basin. Specific objectives of the proposed water storage study are to:

- Provide additional water for instream flows and habitat to enhance fisheries,
- Provide a more reliable water supply for existing water users with junior water rights, and
- Supply additional water for future municipal demands.

An initial emphasis of the Study is to assess feasibility of importing water from the Columbia River to a potential new reservoir located in the Black Rock Valley, and delivering water from the reservoir to irrigators in the Yakima River basin willing to exchange all or part of their current water supply. The Storage Study also will examine other options, such as expanding Bumping Lake, building a new dam in Lmuma Creek Canyon, and constructing a pipeline between Keechelus and Kachess Reservoirs. These options will be compared and analyzed to determine the best plan to meet the objectives of the Storage Study.

It is hoped that a plan can be developed to benefit all the water users in the basin.

Background

Since 1992, several years of low water runoff in the Yakima River basin, along with the lack of carryover storage in Yakima Project reservoirs, has resulted in significant water shortages for irrigated agricultural production and for fishery habitat. The lack of a reliable water supply and the presence of several fish species which are listed as threatened or endangered cast a shadow on the basin's future economic and natural resources well-being.

A grass roots effort has developed to resolve Yakima River basin water supply issues. Started by the area counties, cities, and other organizations, the grassroots effort has developed in to the Yakima Basin Storage Alliance (YBSA). As a result, the Storage Study was authorized and initially funded by Congress in 2003.

Following recommendations made in 2001 by the Governor's Task Force on Water Storage, the Washington State Legislature appropriated \$4 million to cost share with Reclamation through the state Department of Ecology to develop engineering plans, prepare reports, and conduct other preconstruction activities associated with the development of water storage projects in the Yakima River Basin.

If you have special accommodation needs or require this document in an alternative format, please contact Kim McCartney at (509) 575-5848 ext 370 (voice) or 711 (TTY) or 1-800-833-6388.



U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation